

Nevada Comprehensive Preservation Plan 2012

Introduction

For the past year, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been in the process of preparing a new comprehensive preservation plan to guide historic preservation for the next eight years. The 2003 plan was ambitious and it succeeded for the most part because the state was rapidly increasing in population and industry making possible the growth of programs that benefited historic preservation. The end of the eight-year planning cycle unfortunately ended with the recession which dealt a severe blow to the economy of Nevada. As a consequence many historic preservation programs in the state experienced a loss of funding and staff. Historic preservation programs are competing with education and critical human services for shrinking state and federal dollars and a number of programs have been affected. The State of Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs no longer exist as of September 30, 2011 and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office returned to its original home at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with some of its public outreach programs suspended. At a time of great scrutiny over the expenditure of public dollars, the historic preservation community must demonstrate that preservation is relevant to peoples' daily lives, and that it is just as important, if not more so, for historic preservation programs to continue into the future.

Why Historic Preservation Matters

Cultural resources are buildings, structures, districts, sites, objects and landscapes that have been created, modified or used by people. Historic properties are a select group of cultural resources considered worthy of long-term preservation and, often, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These resources provide physical links to the past and to the diverse groups of people who made them and who inhabited this region over an 11,000 year period of time. These remains tell a story about Nevada's history, and the theft or destruction of the resources they left behind is akin to losing pages out of a book. Without these valuable pages, the story will remain incomplete and unknowable. Many of these resources are part of a cherished landscape: rock art within the Valley of Fire State Park; historic ranches with outbuildings, corrals and hay fields in rural Nevada; treasured public buildings such as the Fourth Ward School in Virginia City; the Plumas Neighborhood and the Riverside Hotel in Reno; and the Las Vegas High School and the John Park neighborhood in Las Vegas. They include engineering marvels such as Hoover Dam and the Newlands Irrigation Project. These archaeological and historic sites inform us of how people adapted in a harsh environment with less rainfall per year than any other state in the union, and provide data about not only the people but also about flora and fauna. Archaeological sites provide evidence of changes in climate during the last 11,000 years that could help us to adapt to future change.

Cultural resources can also play an important role in restarting Nevada's economy. The recent economic downturn has slowed the pace of redevelopment projects that resulted in the demolition of historic properties in order to construct new buildings. This temporary lull could

open the door to the consideration of more modest ventures for which proponents might more willingly rehabilitate historic properties using the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program, rather than relying on new construction, in order to revitalize downtown commercial zones. Similarly, the slowdown in new residential construction may make the rehabilitation of existing older houses more appealing. From a sustainability standpoint, the reuse of historic buildings is a “green industry” that conserves energy and natural resources. In new construction, substantial energy is expended to manufacture or to extract building materials that are then transported and assembled at building sites. The demolition of existing buildings and removal of subsequent waste to landfill sites constitutes a gross waste of reusable materials. Energy conservation should be one of preservation’s strongest selling points.

Cultural resources also attract people to the state. Tourists are increasingly interested in viewing historic and prehistoric resources, and they want those resources to be authentic. The 2010 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) reports that of popular educational recreation activities for Nevadans, visiting historic sites ranks sixth and visiting prehistoric and archaeological sites ranks seventh among visitors to outdoor recreation sites, with a modest increase in visitors reported over the last decade.

For reasons both tangible and intangible, historic preservation matters, but this message has to be better communicated to the public.

Development of the Comprehensive Preservation Plan 2011

Every eight years, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prepares a comprehensive preservation plan that serves to guide historic preservation activity in the state. The planning process began in October of 2010 with the designation of a steering committee and an initial meeting to discuss issues and challenges facing historic preservation in Nevada and the questions that should be posed to the public. Public meetings were held in Reno, Virginia City, Las Vegas, Elko, and Ely in January through March of 2011. At the meetings, participants were asked about their historic preservation concerns, and questionnaires were distributed for participants to complete and return by mail at a later time. The questionnaire was also posted as an online survey linked to the SHPO website with SHPO website visitors invited to fill out the survey. Issues and challenges were identified based on the results obtained from meetings, questionnaires and the online survey. Goals and objectives based on these issues and challenges were developed and reviewed by SHPO staff and the steering committee. Following review by the Board of Museums and History, the final plan will be forwarded to the National Park Service for review and approval, with implementation to begin January 1, 2012.

Use of the Plan

The National Historic Preservation Act requires each State Historic Preservation Office to prepare and implement a comprehensive preservation plan, but it is not exclusively a series of tasks for SHPO. The plan is meant to guide historic preservation activities for the state as a whole; therefore, SHPO has requested public involvement in the identification not only of major

issues but of ways for the public, other agencies, and organizations to become involved in the solutions. The plan will direct SHPO in areas to focus staff energy and funding but can be useful to other state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, and non-profit organizations in determining historic preservation priorities for their own historic preservation programs.

Nevada's History

People occupied Nevada beginning a little before 11,000 years ago, at the end of the Pleistocene epoch and the last glacial recession, and the beginning of the Holocene or modern period. Archaeologists debate whether these early populations in Nevada hunted now-extinct mammals such as mastodons, mammoths, horses and camels, focused on the collection of marshland resources around the evaporating Pleistocene lakes, or followed a more recognizable foraging existence similar to later groups. Few dateable sites are associated with these early dispersed groups of people who may have travelled long distances to follow game or seasonally available plant food. They left behind stone tools that include knives, stemmed and concave base projectile points, crescents, graters, punches, choppers, and steep edge scrapers located at sites in valley bottoms and in upland areas. Rockshelters contain remnants of basketry and other textiles. Sites that typify life during this period of time include the Last Supper Cave, a National Register-listed property.

By about 8,000 years ago, lakes dried up and marshes disappeared as the region entered a warmer and drier period. The Archaic lifeway that emerged lasted until Euroamericans entered Nevada. People moved across the landscape to hunt and collect animals, fish, birds and plants. Big game were extinct, rich marsh resources were no longer available, and pinyon pines had not yet reached much of Nevada, meaning that food sources were scarce and human populations foraged for a broad spectrum of food that included formerly neglected resources that required a great deal of energy to extract for the low food values obtained. Seed processing tools such as manos and metates were added to tool kits. Smaller projectile points suggest a shift from the use of spears to an atlatl and dart technology. Population density was low and located near dependable water sources. Leonard Rockshelter, a National Historic Landmark, contained a great deal of data that provides a window on life during this period of time.

From 4,500 years ago until around 1,500 years ago, cooler and moister conditions began to prevail. Pinyon pine moved north into its current range and Nevada began to look much as we know it today. Large numbers of archaeological sites appear during this period, in all manner of environments, suggesting increased population. People foraged for resources as they became seasonally available: in general, roots and plants during the spring; seeds during the summer; pinyon and large game in the fall. In the winter, people inhabited more permanent bases to consume stored food and await spring, when the seasonal round began anew. The round varied based on the success or failure of a particular resource, and on the kinds of resources available in a given region. For example, pinyon was not available in large numbers north of the Humboldt River, but salmon could be fished for on the Owyhee and Bruneau Rivers.

1,700 years ago, people in extreme eastern and southern parts of Nevada began to practice horticulture, growing corn, beans and squash, and living a more settled existence in pueblo

structures. Pueblo Grande de Nevada, outside of Overton and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an example of settlements in southern and extreme eastern Nevada dating from this short period of time.

The climate changed once again after 1,700 years ago, to a warmer and drier regime. Toolkits demonstrate a reliance on the processing of smaller game and plant resources. Bows and arrows, smaller projectile points and snares began to appear in the archaeological record about 1,500 years ago and ceramics around 1,000 years ago. Pueblos were abandoned by about 800 years ago. Population densities were greatest where resources were most concentrated in places such as Stillwater Marsh, a National Register archaeological district.

Although archaeologists understand something about technology used in subsistence activities and have discovered the remains of structures and shelters that housed early populations, little is known about the social and ideological life of earlier peoples. Rock art such as petroglyphs, pictographs and intaglios, are found across the state and are one of the few links for understanding belief and social systems of past peoples. Some of these sites such as Grimes Point Petroglyphs in Churchill County and Black Canyon Petroglyphs in Lincoln County are listed on the National Register and are interpreted on site.

When European Americans entered Nevada in 1776 they encountered Numic-speaking people – the Northern Paiute, Western Shoshone and Southern Paiute. These populations occupied and continue to live in all of the State with the exception of extreme western Nevada, the home of the Washoe Tribe; and the southern Colorado River area, populated by Yuman peoples. Native peoples continued to hunt and gather until forced to settle on or near ranches and towns where they performed day labor, and on reservations. Their children were forced to attend Indian schools such as the Stewart Indian School south of Carson City, a campus now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Native American workmen constructed many of the Craftsman-style buildings at Stewart in native stone following a plan developed by Frederick Snyder, an influential superintendent.

Twenty-eight organized tribes and several federally unrecognized groups live in Nevada today. They maintain close ties to the land, continuing to gather plants and harvesting pinyon despite impediments such as lack of access to private land, and agency laws restricting their collection of animals and plants. They continue to revere the land around them and are concerned about the preservation of traditional cultural places, such as the Tosawiihi Quarries in Lander County, Cave Rock at Lake Tahoe, and Spirit Mountain above Lake Mojave, all properties determined eligible or included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Euroamerican history begins with exploration of the extreme south of the state by Spanish explorers as early as 1776, and in the north, by British and American fur trappers and traders in 1826. The Old Spanish Trail became established as a trade route between Santa Fe and southern California, crossing southern Nevada on part of the route. Parts of the trail are still visible today. Beginning in the 1840s, thousands of Americans began to emigrate in large numbers by wagons to California and Oregon, following the Humboldt River across the state, and taking various cut-offs to the end of their journey. The National Register-listed Applegate Lassen Trail is still

visible in the form of wagon ruts, graves, artifact scatters, and written inscriptions that can be found along the route through northwestern Nevada.

Settlements grew along the trails. In southern Nevada, the Mormon Church established a mission in Las Vegas, and Mormons were also responsible for building the settlement of Genoa in the Carson Valley. Little physically exists from these earlier settlements other than the much-restored adobe Mormon Fort in Las Vegas and archaeological remains. Sparsely-populated Nevada was part of Utah territory after the War with Mexico ended in 1848, but this status would change with the discovery of silver on the Comstock in 1859. Thousands of Americans flocked to what would become Virginia City, and by 1861 Congress established Nevada as a territory. In 1864, Nevada was admitted to the union as the thirty-sixth state.

Carson City was established as the state capital and contains a number of monumental National Register-listed state buildings and a substantial historic district with everything from mansions to modest homes, together exhibiting a number of major styles popular from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century.

Virginia City, now a National Historic Landmark, was founded in 1859, following the discovery a large lode of silver ore. It was long the largest population center in Nevada, an industrial city for the extraction and milling of silver. It also served as a hub for exploration and development of other mining districts in the state including Austin, Eureka, Belmont and Hamilton. Following a fire that devastated much of the town, much of commercial Virginia City was rebuilt in brick and iron. By 1880, the high grade ore was gone and the boom ended. Mining of low grade ore continues off and on to the present day. Virginia City's surviving buildings are primarily vernacular expressions of Italianate architecture and many significant examples such as the Fourth Ward School and St. Mary in the Mountains Catholic Church stand intact. Other mining towns of the period followed Virginia City's path of development from tents and log cabin camps to elaborate architecture of brick and stone for public and commercial buildings.

Industries that provided support to the mines grew in neighboring valleys. Ranches and farms were established in Carson and Washoe Valleys, the Truckee Meadows and Humboldt River Valley, despite the aridity and cold. Ditches and canals were quickly dug to irrigate farms and orchards. Cattle ranches were established in remote areas consisting of compounds of a family house, bunkhouse, barns, corrals and storehouses using whatever building material was available from adobe to railroad ties to logs. Basques from southern France and northern Spain came to herd sheep, living in small horse-drawn wagons as sheep had to be moved frequently. Hotels catering to Basque shepherders arose in Elko, Reno, and Winnemucca.

Nevada's population grew at the same time as did the nation's infrastructure linking the two coasts with improvements in transportation and communication. The Pony Express and later the Overland Freight Road crossed the central part of the state. The remains of mail and maintenance stations parallel current U. S. 50. The transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, resulting in the construction of numerous railroad towns and stations paralleling segments of the California emigrant trail. Many of the Chinese laborers who built the railroad remained in the state following its completion to become loggers in the Sierra Nevada or to provide other services in support of the mines. As the twentieth century began, the San Pedro-Los Angeles-

Salt Lake City Railroad was constructed, leading to the platting of Las Vegas in 1905. The cities of Elko, Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks, and Winnemucca would become major hubs in Nevada, and railroad short lines would feed into the major rail line at these and other points to link mines and ranches with the rest of the country. Almost all of the short lines are gone, scrapped for metal during wartime, their depots demolished or sold, leaving only the railroad grades to mark their short history.

Following a major depression due to the devaluation of silver, Nevada entered a new period of growth from 1900 to 1910, with a second short-lived mining boom in Tonopah and Goldfield, both National Register districts, and Rhyolite, now mostly archaeological ruins. Substantial brick and stone buildings such as the Mizpah Hotel and Nye County Courthouse remain in use in Tonopah but many other buildings are abandoned and not maintained. One of Goldfield's most imposing structures, the Goldfield High School, is in a poor state of repair and in need of stabilization. The mining of copper during this time period proved profitable in Ely until the 1970s. In addition to the massive brick and stone commercial and public buildings in Ely, the extensive complex of the Nevada Northern Railroad Yards is located in East Ely, a National Historic Landmark now in the hands of the White Pine County Historical Railroad Foundation and the State of Nevada Museum system.

In the early twentieth century, Nevada's congressional delegation sought to bring funding to the state through federal projects. Senator Francis Newlands was responsible for bringing the first national reclamation project to Nevada with the diversion of water from the Carson and Truckee Rivers to irrigate the desert in Lahontan Valley, leading to the founding of Fallon. Eventually the Bureau of Reclamation authorized construction from 1931-1935 of Hoover Dam, a National Historic Landmark on the Colorado River, which would also lead to a building boom in Las Vegas and the construction of the government planned town of Boulder City, a National Register district comprised of many modest houses as well as administrative offices in the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

Nevada's second mining boom faded in the 1920s and the state government sought means of attracting more people and money to Nevada. In 1931 the Nevada State Legislature liberalized divorce laws by dropping the residency requirement to six weeks, the shortest time frame in the country. Divorce ranches and boarding houses maintained steady business during the Depression, particularly in Reno, and many locals rented out rooms to those seeking "Reno-vation." During the same legislative session, gambling was also legalized. Reno and Las Vegas downtowns were altered permanently with the establishment of casino and casino architecture.

During the Great Depression, Nevada received a greater share of federal money than it merited due the influence of its congressional delegation, and public works programs were responsible for the construction of new post offices, roads, drains for the Newlands irrigation project, fences, range improvements, and U.S. Forest Service Administrative Offices that continue in use today.

An additional federal government presence was welcomed with the building of Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot (now Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant) beginning in 1928, between Reno and Las Vegas on land deemed suitable for the construction of an ammunition depot due to its remote location far from major population centers. In World War II, bases were established at

Wendover, a town straddling the border between Nevada and Utah, for the testing of aircraft that would drop the atomic bombs on Japan, and the Tonopah Auxiliary Airfield for the training of flight crews. Also established were a gunnery range outside of Las Vegas (now known as Nellis Air Force Base) and an auxiliary Naval Air Station at Fallon, both less known for their part in World War II than Cold War activities in the 1950s through the 1970s. The Nevada Test Site, now the Nevada National Security Site, was established in 1950 and was used to test above-ground and later, underground nuclear weapons. The Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant is eligible for inclusion on the National Register, and the Sedan Crater on the Nevada Test Site is listed on the Register. The City of Henderson was born in 1941 of a need to produce magnesium for the war effort utilizing power from the Hoover Dam power plant. Thousands of temporary small wood frame houses were built for workers in neighborhoods segregated by race. A few of those neighborhoods still survive.

The City of Reno became the state's banking and political center after the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad and establishment of the University of Nevada in the nineteenth century. Senator Newlands was responsible for developing the Newlands Neighborhood of mansions in a variety of styles including Tudor Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival and Classical Revival. The Art Deco-style Mapes Hotel in Reno, built in 1947, was the first high-rise hotel casino in the country. Reno continued to prosper and after World War II, enjoyed a modest building boom. Pioneer Theater, a geodesic-domed building, and Fleischmann Planetarium, with its distinctive butterfly shaped roof, are both futuristic public structures in Reno built in the 1960s and listed on the National Register.

The City of Las Vegas eclipsed Reno in population by 1960, its railroad past mostly a memory. A few neighborhoods from the 1920s through 1930s contain modest houses dominated by the Spanish Colonial Revival style, but housing was slow to develop until the casino industry took off after World War II, and after Nellis Air Force Base and the Nevada Test Site grew to meet national needs during the Cold War. Currently, older edifices are continually torn down to make way for larger and trendier casino resorts. It is common for 30-to-40 year old casino resorts to become considered past their prime and imploded to make way for the new, meaning that few survive to 50 years of age and potential National Register eligible status. Only the recent downturn in the economy has slowed this trend.

Nevada's Inventory

Ninety percent of Nevada is unsurveyed for cultural resources. The majority of the state's recorded cultural resources have been identified as the result of archaeological or architectural surveys conducted to comply with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Because surveys are project-driven, certain areas of the state are better recorded and researched than others. For example, redevelopment and transportation projects in central Reno and Las Vegas have led to the identification and evaluation of many more cultural resources there than in other urban centers in the state. A great deal too is known about the archaeology along the Carlin Trend in eastern Nevada where gold mines operate.

The majority of Nevada’s cultural resources are unevaluated archaeological sites, primarily lithic scatters that were camps, food processing sites, quarries and tool stone manufacturing sites, hunting blinds and corrals, and rock art. Historic archaeological sites are abundant too, comprised of towns and camps, shafts, adits, mills, waste dumps, charcoal burner platforms, and ovens associated with historic mining activity, but also abandoned line camps and homesteads associated with ranching and farming. Less than a dozen traditional cultural places have been formally recorded but not included in NVCRIS.

The Nevada Cultural Resources Information System (NVCRIS) is an electronic database that is continually being refined and updated. Around 2,500 sites are added to the system each year from Historic Preservation Fund surveys and federal project-generated work. Since its inception, the focus has been on quality control: eliminating the duplication of numbers assigned to a single site or building, and accurately plotting sites. As a result, NVCRIS has become an increasingly better planning tool for SHPO and federal agencies.

The distribution of archaeological sites is broken down by the state’s seventeen counties and current as of March 2011:

County	Number of sites
Carson City	790
Churchill	2395
Clark	6906
Douglas	1152
Elko	10966
Esmeralda	1356
Eureka	6106
Humboldt	3769
Lander	5755
Lincoln	3539
Lyon	1327
Mineral	1514
Nye	12419
Pershing	2177
Storey	312
Washoe	7703
White Pine	5642
TOTAL	73,828

The distribution of architecture is recorded as of March 2011:

County	Number of Structures
Carson City	775
Churchill	121
Clark	2830

Douglas	337
Elko	123
Esmeralda	22
Eureka	143
Humboldt	32
Lander	162
Lincoln	314
Lyon	126
Mineral	55
Nye	272
Pershing	21
Storey	500
Washoe	1442
White Pine	119
TOTAL	7394

There are 361 National Register listings for Nevada of which 107 are district nominations and four are traditional cultural places. There are seven National Historic Landmarks in the state. The preponderance of listings are in those areas that have undergone the greatest amount of survey work, and the largest number of listings are architectural and historic, with few prehistoric archaeological sites ever receiving formal designation beyond determinations of eligibility.

Challenges for Historic Preservation in Nevada

The recession beginning in 2007 hit Nevada particularly hard as construction of housing slowed considerably and people postponed or no longer took trips to recreate in the state. For example, unemployment stood 14.4% as of March 2011 and the foreclosure rate was one out of 97 households in the state. The State of Nevada is legally obligated to operate under a balanced budget so programs that support capital improvements of historic buildings, maintenance of state parks and museums that are historic sites, and individual programs at SHPO have been reduced or eliminated. Local governments have had to make similar cuts. The next eight years will present challenges as competition grows for scarce funding, demanding creativity in approaches to preserving historic properties.

Nevada is a study in contrasts. Physically, it is the seventh largest state in the union, with a population of 2,700,550, a 35% increase in numbers since the 2000 census. Yet 100,000 people departed the state from 2009-2010 because of the recession. The majority of the state is rural with unimpeded vistas of valleys and mountains, and vast empty stretches between its small towns. But the state is also highly urbanized, with the bulk of its population living in the cities within Clark County in the south, and Carson City, Douglas, and Washoe counties in the north. Over 72% of the state's population lives in Clark County, the core of which is Las Vegas, the nation's resort capital. Only a small percentage of residents in Nevada were actually born in the state. Most have come from other states and countries to retire or to seek employment in construction or gaming. Some people stay for a short while and return to another place they call

home. Those who stay enjoy the sunshine, desert scenery, and lack of a state income tax, but few venture beyond suburbia to see the real Nevada that gives its longtime residents an identity and a history. A major challenge for historic preservation in Nevada today is educating new residents about Nevada's history and the importance of historic preservation. Unless the small historic preservation community is able to persuade newcomers that special places are worth preserving, the state's historic properties will disappear forever as cities expand and off-road recreation moves further into the unspoiled reaches of Nevada. Development will return to the cities as the economy improves. Despite the economic downturn, precious metal mining is booming due to elevated prices of gold and silver. Additionally, the federal government is encouraging renewable energy projects in large designated areas of Nevada to produce power generated by wind, geothermal, and solar energy.

A little over 84.5 percent of the state is managed by the federal government which creates challenges for managing historic properties. In a time of fiscal constraint, the federal agencies have less funding and staff for managing historic properties just as do their counterparts on the state and local government levels.

Questionnaire results

A majority of respondents to the questionnaire feel that looting and vandalism are the primary threats to historic properties, a major issue identified in previous state plans. Prehistoric artifacts and historic mining sites are being looted for copper, bottles and attractive artifacts not just for recreation but for sale too, one result of a weakening economy. However, respondents also reported that an uneducated and ill-informed public is partly to blame for site damage. Most residents are transplants from other states, know little of Nevada's history, and feel no attachment to the resources they see on the landscape or within Nevada's cities. They see little reason to preserve these resources in place, regularly picking up projectile points, driving and parking on sites, and spraying graffiti on historic buildings or rock art. One of the major challenges identified regards educating and providing information to the public, an issue recognized in previous state plans.

The second major issue facing historic preservation in Nevada today regards a lack of funding and staff to manage historic properties. Because of the recession, the State of Nevada no longer has the capacity to sell bonds under the Commission for Cultural Affairs program so historic buildings owned by governmental agencies or private non-profit organizations have lost a major source of funding. Concern exists that many buildings can't wait for roofs and foundations to be repaired. Governmental agencies, such as Nevada State Parks, have also seen a loss of staffing at historic sites due to budget cuts; frozen capital improvement funding to maintain historic buildings; and cuts to the State Historic Preservation Office budget that have eliminated or suspended programs designed to educate, inform, recognize or interpret local sites of importance. Budget cuts at the local government level have had a similar impact.

Although new development did not rank highly as an issue for the majority of respondents, it is a major concern in two areas of the state. Within the Virginia City Historic Landmark that

straddles Storey and Lyon Counties, current mining practices threaten the historic mining landscape of the landmark district. Although some mining pits such as the Ophir, date to 1859, current mining technology allows the excavation of much larger open pits with large waste rock pits and leach pads that alter the landscape with the removal of mountains. Although federal and state agencies require re-contouring of slopes and other remediation after mining has occurred, the landscape is irreversibly changed. Much historic mining in Virginia City took place unseen underground beneath the city, although industrial milling made Virginia City a dusty, noisy and polluted town to inhabit in the nineteenth century. Proposed modern mining will create open pits at the edge of Gold Hill and Silver City with the accompanying dust, noise and use of heavy equipment that will make these towns more likely to see building abandonment as residents move away to avoid living next door to industrial processes. Increased mining activity might also negatively impact the area's tourist industry as tourists may find it unpleasant or unsafe to visit the Comstock.

The other area of the state where concern has been expressed is south of Las Vegas where renewable energy projects are being considered for large swathes of the Mojave Desert. Nevada is a renewable energy-rich state with many geothermal resources and great solar and wind energy production potential currently being developed statewide. Nevada is also a conduit between the Rocky Mountain oil and gas-producing states and energy users on the west coast. Transmission line corridors crisscross the state and a water transmission line from eastern Nevada to Clark County is also on the drawing board. Because Nevada is a desert, solar and wind projects and transmission lines can be seen for long distances on the landscape. Water depletion from valleys may also have long term effects on cultural landscapes. These projects often take place on federal land or involve federal land, requiring compliance with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, so that consideration of project effects on historic properties is required. However, some respondents feel that projects are being rushed without adequate consideration of the cumulative effects of dozens of energy projects on historic properties and landscapes.

Another issue peculiar to rural Nevada regards the development of strip malls on the outskirts of its towns, with merchants and shoppers abandoning historic buildings and businesses in the downtown core of towns such as Elko.

In addition to the Virginia City Historic Landmark and historic properties within the Mojave Desert, respondents were concerned about:

- the long term management of Rhyolite, the remains of a historic mining town in Nye County;
- inappropriate infill in the mid-twentieth century Paradise Palms development in Clark County and the Wells and Plumas neighborhoods of the City of Reno;
- historic buildings owned by public or non-profit entities that would have or were in the process of rehabilitation using funding from the Commission for Cultural Affairs;
- the imminent loss of Basque tree carvings on aspens in mature and dying groves across the state;
- loss of the American Flat mill in the Virginia City National Historic Landmark;

- unreinforced masonry buildings in Earthquake Zone 3 in Nevada which includes parts of Carson City, Reno and Virginia City;
- Keyhole Canyon, Gold Butte and other rock art sites in Clark County;
- historic landscapes in general because they haven't been identified and designated;
- historic schools such as Maude Frazier Hall on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus, and Goodsprings Elementary school;
- mid-twentieth century architecture in general, which the public doesn't recognize as historic;
- resources associated with aviation history;
- small historic towns and their commercial downtown buildings;
- historic cemeteries that are in ill repair and are being vandalized; and
- Late Pleistocene/early Holocene archaeological sites.

Goals and Objectives for 2012 Plan

The State of Nevada is guided by its vision statement for historic preservation in establishing goals and objectives:

We envision a Nevada in which an educated and caring citizenry respects traditional lifeways and works to protect Nevada's archaeological heritage. We see Nevada as a place where historic properties are preserved, interpreted and reused for their economic and intrinsic values and for future generations to appreciate.

Based on Nevada's vision statement and on the results of public meetings, questionnaire and steering committee input, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) identified priorities for historic preservation for the next eight years. Many of the issues identified in the 2003 plan remain the same in 2011 but economic circumstances have highlighted the need for preservationists to do more in the way of education of the public, state and local governments and industry in order to demonstrate the importance of historic properties to the economy; to seek restoration of funding for historic preservation; and to broaden the net to identify additional partners to support historic preservation activities.

The following goals and objectives will guide the path for historic preservation in the state for the next eight years. The goals are broad statements that address major issues and program needs. Progress can be made toward achieving goals but they are never entirely accomplished. The objectives are more narrowly focused on specific ideas that can be acted on and achievement measured during the eight-year life span of the plan.

A. Strengthen efforts to protect historic properties. Those responding to the questionnaire identified looting of sites and vandalism of sites as the numbers one and three issues facing historic preservation today. Historic sites with any kind of metal are at risk by collectors. Incidents of graffiti at a rock art site outside of Las Vegas sparked widespread public outcry and concern exists that it may be part of a trend. In addition, proposed renewable energy projects in southern Nevada and a proposed gold mine in Lyon County have provoked alarm about the loss of historic landscapes.

1. Work with local governments and historic property owners to maintain properties and prevent neglect and decay of buildings and historic districts.
2. Assist federal agencies in assessing the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.
3. Ensure that all local governments are aware of the International Building Code (IBC) that permits variances on historic buildings.
4. Serve on state and local planning boards, committees and commissions so that historic properties are considered in land use planning decisions.
5. Maintain the accuracy and currency of the Nevada Cultural Resources Information System (NVCRIS), the State's on-line database to provide agencies with up-to-date data on historic properties for project planning.
6. Work with state and federal agencies toward mutually agreed upon and programmatically applied solutions to make historic buildings energy efficient in ways that do not damage the historic character of those buildings.
7. Work with federal agencies, industry, and the public to find common solutions to the issue of cumulative effects on historic properties within an area.
8. Request that the National Park Service work with SHPO and other federal and state agencies to develop a management plan for the historic landscape on the Virginia City National Historic Landmark.

B. Increase funding and support for historic preservation activities. Respondents ranked lack of funding and staff to manage historic properties as the second most critical issue facing historic preservation in Nevada. With the loss of state bond money to rehabilitate significant public buildings as cultural centers, most non-federally funded work on historic buildings has ground to a halt. Budgets have been cut at the state and local government levels, leaving fewer dollars for maintenance of historic properties and less staff for managing or monitoring historic properties. Those answering surveys felt that historic preservation needs to sell itself as part of economic revitalization of downtowns and as a magnet for tourists seeking authentic historic experiences.

1. After the state's capacity for selling bonds is restored, partner with other agencies, organizations and individuals to support legislative reauthorization of sale of bonds for the Commission for Cultural Affairs grants program.
2. Support capital improvement projects for all government-owned historic buildings, particularly buildings with unreinforced masonry.
3. Provide Historic Preservation Funding to certified local governments (CLGs) to support archaeological and architectural surveys, nominate properties to the National Register, and educate the public about the value of historic properties.
4. Back the restoration of funding to historic facilities at the state and local government level.
5. Publicize the use of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program and the State Open Space Tax Act to stimulate economic redevelopment.
6. Seek to reestablish the State Register of Historic Places and State Historic Marker programs.

7. Restructure the fee schedule for use of the Nevada Cultural Resources Information System (NVCRIS) to reflect the real costs of maintaining the system.

C. Create greater numbers of a caring and educated public who want to preserve historic properties. Most of those responding to the questionnaire felt that education was a key element to providing protection to historic properties. If people are educated, they will be more likely to preserve sites. Although Bureau of Land Management archaeologists instruct teachers in the rural communities on using lesson plans from “Intrigue of the Past,” implementation across the state is inconsistent. Many respondents also feel that the public doesn’t know enough about historic preservation and doesn’t feel connected to historic properties or understand why these resources should be protected. The respondents recommended that more sites be interpreted and more information made public. Many in the private industry and in local governments also may not have accurate information on historic properties.

1. Educate the public and local governments on the economic benefits of historic preservation. Publicize the economic value of rehabilitating historic buildings rather than demolishing them and erecting new buildings in urban areas.
2. Inform realtors and engineers of the value of historic real estate and appropriate rehabilitation to maintaining quality of life and high property values in neighborhoods and communities.
3. Make architectural and National Register electronic databases available on line.
4. Partner with federal agencies to promote the instruction of historic preservation and archaeology in K-12 curriculum. Look for ways to reach all school districts.
5. Ensure that there is a public benefit component on any mitigation undertaken on federal projects for which there are effects on historic properties.
6. Work with agencies and local governments to provide more information about and interpretation of historic properties so the public can feel “ownership” and support for preservation.
7. Provide historic preservation information electronically and in print to reach a wide audience. Consider using electronic media, social media, public service announcements (PSAs) and billboards.
8. Revise Historic Preservation/Archaeological Awareness Month to publicize events taking place all year long on an events calendar posted on SHPO website.
9. Conduct workshops for the preparation of National Register nominations and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program applications.
10. Work with universities and colleges to provide opportunities for interns to learn skills in historic preservation.

D. Identify and designate historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Those answering the questionnaire want to see more historic and prehistoric archaeological sites recorded and evaluated because they are considered most jeopardized. Historic landscapes were considered a priority to identify and evaluate. Architecture in rural areas and traditional cultural properties were also recommended for recordation and listing on the National Register. Historic trails and cemeteries also received notice.

1. Record and evaluate historic landscapes.

2. Identify, preserve and interpret nationally, state and locally significant historic transportation corridors such as the Lincoln Highway.
3. Record and recognize architecture and historic sites in rural Nevada.
4. Continue surveys of mid-twentieth century architecture.
5. Record and evaluate prehistoric and historic archeological sites around the state that are most endangered.
6. Support recording and listing of traditional cultural properties.

E. Identify new historic preservation partners and continue working with existing partners. Respondents at meetings and in questionnaires responded strongly about the need for creating new partnerships. Surprisingly, most did not name government agencies, with the exception of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, as potential partners, most suggesting non-profit organizations, universities and schools for partnerships. The public was almost unanimous in requesting continued support for the State Site Stewardship program, which was considered historic preservation's best example of public outreach. Tribes were also strongly recommended as partners and a few suggested non-traditional entities such as the Burning Man community and All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) groups.

1. Continue implementation of the State Site Stewardship program, a partnership with volunteers, state and federal agencies.
2. Based on the site stewardship program, train volunteers to be site "docents."
3. Broaden the base of the historic preservation constituency by identifying and involving underserved populations and students.
4. Partner with the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs to publicize opportunities for heritage tourism, particularly in rural communities and in the Great Basin Heritage Area.
5. Partner with local communities that erect markers in historic neighborhoods through providing general information on history. Consider the use of bilingual markers where appropriate (one already exists in Sparks, featuring English and Mandarin).
6. Partner with historic preservation organizations for an annual historic preservation conference.
7. Participate in a consortium that provides speakers and support to local historical societies and museums.
8. Partner with cities to rethink urban redevelopment during the economic downturn and capitalize on the lull in activity to re-evaluate need for new construction in inner-city areas.
9. Partner with interested tribes to educate, monitor and preserve historic properties.
10. Contact Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) and Nevada League of Cities to identify local governments interested in working on projects to enhance heritage tourism.
11. Strengthen statewide preservation organizations such as Preserve Nevada, the Nevada Archaeological Association and the Nevada Rock Art Foundation that advocate for historic preservation.

Time Frame

The planning cycle will last eight years beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2019. Many of the objectives are on-going programs of the State Historic Preservation Office but a number of the objectives are intended for the historic preservation community at large.

Goal A Protect Historic Properties	Time line
1. Work with local governments and property owners to prevent demolition through neglect of historic properties	On-going
2. Assist federal agencies in assessing effects	On-going
3. Ensure that local governments are aware of alternative building codes for historic buildings	On-going
4. Serve on local planning commissions	On-going
5. Maintain NVCRIS	On-going
6. Find programmatic solutions to energy efficiency projects for historic buildings	On-going
7. Seek common solutions to cumulative effects	On-going
8. Work with partners to develop management plan for historic landscape of Virginia City NHL	On-going
Goal B Increase Funding and Support for Historic Preservation	
1. Restore funding for Commission for Cultural Affairs grants	On-going
2. Support capital improvements to historic buildings	On-going
3. Fund certified local government programs	On-going
4. Support return of funding to historic facilities at state and local level	On-going
5. Support use of federal and state tax incentives for economic revitalization	On-going
6. Re-establish State Register and State Marker programs	On-going
7. Restructure fee schedule for NVCRIS	2013
Goal C Inform and Educate the Public	
1. Educate regarding economic benefits of preservation	On-going
2. Provide information to realtors and engineers on rehabilitation in historic neighborhoods	On-going
3. Place National Register and architectural databases on line	2014
4. Work with partners to incorporate historic preservation into K-12 curriculum	On-going
5. Ensure that there is a public benefit to any mitigation	On-going
6. Provide the public with more information about and interpretation of sites so public feels an "ownership"	On-going
7. Provide historic preservation information electronically and in print.	On-going
8. Post historic preservation events all year on SHPO web calendar	2014
9. Conduct workshops on National Register and Tax Act for public	On-going
10. Support interns in historic preservation	On-going
Goal D Identify and Designate Properties to the National Register	
1. Identify and evaluate historic landscapes	On-going
2. Identify and interpret historic transportation corridors	On-going
3. Record and recognize rural architecture	On-going

4. Survey for mid-twentieth century architecture	On-going
5. Record and evaluate threatened historic and prehistoric sites	On-going
6. Evaluate and designate traditional cultural properties	On-going
Goal E Identify new preservation partners	
1. Continue implementing site stewardship program	On-going
2. Create new functions for volunteers	On-going
3. Identify and involve underserved populations	On-going
4. Look to Nevada Commission on Tourism to publicize heritage tourism	On-going
5. Partner with local communities to mark and interpret historic neighborhoods	On-going
6. Partner with Preserve Nevada or other statewide organization to hold historic preservation conference	2014
7. Partner with preservation groups to create speaker's bureau	On-going
8. Partner with local governments to rethink urban development	On-going
9. Seek to partner with interested tribes	On-going
10. Work with Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) to develop heritage tourism	On-going
11. Strengthen preservation advocacy organizations	On-going

Bibliography

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Nicoletta, Julie. *Buildings of Nevada*. New York: Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 2000.

Nevada Division of State Parks. *Nevada State Outdoor Recreation Plan*, Carson City, NV: Nevada Division of State Parks, 2010.

Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. *Nevada Comprehensive Preservation Plan 2003*, Carson City, Nevada: Nevada Historic Preservation Office, 2003.

U. S. Census Bureau, "State & County QuickFacts," <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

Appendix A: Preservation Directory

Federal Agencies and National Organizations

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Ste. 809
Washington, D. C. 20004
202-606-8503
www.achp.gov

Archaeological Conservancy
Western Regional Office
517 State Street
Wheatland, CA 95692
530-592-9797
www.americanarchaeology.com

Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
P. O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520
775-861-6415
www.blm.gov/heritage

U.S.D.A Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431
775-352-1253

U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530-543-2600

Lincoln Highway Association
Nevada Chapter
775-851-0107
nvlincolnhighway@sbcglobal.net

National Alliance of Preservation
Commissions
225 West Broad St.
Athens, GA 30602
706-542-4731
www.uga.edu

National Center for Preservation
Technology and Training
645 University Parkway
Natchitoches, LA 71457
318-356-7444
<http://ncptt.nps.gov>

National Conference of State Historic
Preservation Officers
444 N. Capitol St., NW Suite 342
Washington, D. C. 20001-1512
202-624-5465
www.sso.org/ncshpo

National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW (org. code 2255)
Washington, D. C. 20240-0001
202-208-6953
www.nps.gov/hstory

National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St., NW (2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-354-2211
www.nps.gov/nr

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Western Regional Office
5 Third St. Suite 707
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-947-0692
www.preservationnation.org

National Pony Express Association
Nevada Division
www.xphomestation.com

Old Spanish Trail Association
Nevada Chapter
702-874-1410
www.oldspanishtrail.org

Oregon California Trail Association
California-Nevada Chapter
P. O. Box 1521
Yreka, CA 96097
www.canvocta.org

Preservation Action
401 F Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20001
202-637-7873
www.preservationaction.org

Historic Preservation Directory
www.preservationdirectory.com

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

Reno Sparks Indian Colony
Michon Eben, THPO
98 Colony Road
Reno, NV 89502
775-785-1363

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
Barbara Durham, THPO
P. O. Box 206
Death Valley, CA 92328-0206

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Darrel Cruz, THPO
919 U.S. Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, NV 89410
775-888-0936

Certified Local Governments

Community Development Department
City of Carson City
108 E. Proctor St.
Carson City, NV 89701
775-283-7076

Department of Planning
City of Las Vegas
333 N. Rancho Drive, Floor 3, Las Vegas,
Nevada 89106
702-229-5260

Community Development Department
City of Reno
P. O. Box 1900
Reno, NV 89505
775-334-2381

Storey County Board of Commissioners
Storey County
P. O. Drawer D
Virginia City, NV 89440
775-847-0968

Heritage Areas

Great Basin Heritage Area
Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership
P.O. Box 78
Baker, NV 89311
775-234-7171
greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com

Appendix B

Nevada State Historic Preservation Office Staff

State Historic Preservation Office
901 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701-5246
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www.nvshpo.org

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Rebecca L. Palmer, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
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775-847-0281; email: mbedeau@shpo.nv.gov
Comstock Historic District

Martin Williams, Administrative Services Officer
775-684-3446; email: mwilliams@shpo.nv.gov
Grants and Office management

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NVCRIS data manager, architectural and archaeological inventory

Sara Fogelquist, Architectural Historian
775-684-3427; email: sfogelquist@shpo.nv.gov
Section 106 reviews, National and State Register program

Elyse Jolly, Archaeologist
775-684-3450; email: ejolly@shpo.nv.gov

Mara Thiessen Jones, Architectural Historian
775-684-3439; email: Mara.jones@shpo.nv.gov
State Historical Markers, Section 106 reviews

Kathryn Kochen, Administrative Assistant III
775-684-3448; email: kkochen@shpo.nv.gov
Office management; general information

Sali Underwood, Archaeologist
702-486-4011; email: sunderwood@shpo.nv.gov
State Site Stewardship Coordinator, Manager of Southern Nevada SHPO Office

Candace Wheeler, Administrative Assistant I
775-847-0281; email: Candace.wheeler@shpo.nv.gov

Jeff Wood, Museum Assistant
775-847-0281; email: Jeff.wood@shpo.nv.gov

Appendix C

Tribes, Inter-Tribal Council and Urban Organizations

Battle Mountain Band Council
37 Mountain View Drive #C
Battle Mountain, NV 89820
775-635-2004

Carson Colony Council
2900 South Curry Street
Carson City, NV 89703
775-883-6459

Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, Arizona 85344
928-669-9211

Dresslerville Community Council
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, NV 89410
775-265-4191

Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe
P. O. Box 219
Owyhee, NV 89832
775-757-3211 or 208-759-3100

Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
P. O. Box 140068
Duckwater, NV 89314
775-863-0227

Elko Band Council
511 Sunset Street
Elko, NV 89803
775-738-8889

Ely Shoshone Tribe
16 Shoshone Circle
Ely, Nevada 89301
775-289-3013

Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Business Council
565 Rio Vista Drive

Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-6075 ; NAGPRA office 775-423-5485

Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
P.O. Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421
775-532-8259

Confederated Tribes of Goshute
P.O. Box 6104
Ibapah, UT 84034
435-234-1162

Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
One Paiute Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89030
702-386-3926

Las Vegas Indian Center, Inc.
2300 W. Bonanza Road
Las Vegas, NV 89107
702-647-5842

Lovelock Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 878
Lovelock, NV 89419
775-273-7861

Moapa Band of Paiutes
P.O. Box 340
Moapa, NV 89025
702-865-2787

Pahrump Paiute Tribe
PO Box 3411
Pahrump, NV 89041

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 256
Nixon, NV 89424
775-574-1000

Michelle Eban, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Reno-Sparks Indian Community
98 Colony Road
Reno, NV 89502

775-329-2936

South Fork Band Council
HC 30 Box B-13
Spring Creek, Nevada 89815
775-744-4273

Stewart Community Council
919 U. S. Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, NV 89410
775-883-7794

Ron Johnny, Environmental Coordinator
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
1708 H Street
Sparks, NV 89431
775-827-9670

Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone
525 Sunset Street
Elko, NV 89801
775-738-9251

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
1349 Rocking W. Drive
Bishop, CA 93514
760-872-3614

Walker River Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 220
Schurz, NV 89427
775-773-2306

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, NV 89410
775-265-4191

Wells Band Council
P.O. Box 809
Wells, NV 89835
775-752-3045

Winnemucca Colony Council
P.O. Box 1370
Winnemucca, NV 89446

775-623-0888

Woodfords Colony Council
96A Washoe Boulevard
Markleeville, CA 96120
530-694-2170

Marlin Thompson, NAGPRA Coordinator
Yerington Paiute Tribe
171 Campbell Lane
Yerington, NV 89447
775-463-3301

Yomba Shoshone Tribe
HC 61 Box 6275
Austin, NV 89310
775-964-2463

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363
760-629-4591

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
680 Greenbrae Drive
Sparks, NV 89431
775-355-0600 X 131

Nevada Indian Commission
5366 Snyder Avenue
Carson City, NV 89701
775-687-8333

Nevada Urban Indians, Inc.
1475 Terminal Way, Suite B
Reno, NV 89502
775-788-7600

Appendix D

Steering Committee Members

Alicia Barber, history, professor and Director, University of Nevada Oral History Program, University of Nevada, Reno

Pat Barker, retired BLM state archaeologist and president of Nevada Rock Art Foundation, Carson City

Mark Bassett, Director, White Pine County Historical Railroad Foundation, Ely

Mella Harmon, architectural historian, Reno

Eva Jensen, archaeologist, Great Basin National Park

Courtney Mooney, Preservation Officer, Department of Planning, City of Las Vegas

Jennifer Pruitt, Planner, Carson City

Greg Seymour, National Trust for Historic Preservation Advisor, Las Vegas

Lynn Wulf, archaeologist, Nellis Air Force Base

Nevada State Historic Preservation Office Staff who participated:

Ron James, State Historic Preservation Officer and historian

Rebecca Palmer, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and archaeologist

Michael “Bert” Bedeau, District Administrator, Comstock Historic District, and architectural historian

Sali Underwood, Site Stewardship Coordinator and archaeologist, southern Nevada SHPO office